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Hoekstra Statement on Senate Passage of Terrorist Surveillance Compromise Bill

WASHINGTON, D.C. – *U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra, R-Mich., the top Republican on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, issued the following statement after the Senate passed legislation to strengthen America's terrorist surveillance capabilities and protect civil liberties:*

"Today Congress has sent a powerful message to terrorists that may be plotting against our homeland—we are united as a nation and committed to preventing the next attack.

"The tools and authorities granted to our nation's intelligence professionals by today's vote are an integral part of protecting America, our embassies and troops abroad, and our allies. When it comes to preventing terrorist attacks, minutes and seconds do count, and America's intelligence professionals need to know that they have the full faith and support of Congress to protect our nation. Today's bipartisan vote to strengthen our terrorist surveillance capabilities provides a much needed demonstration.

"In the days after the 9/11 attacks, the bipartisan leadership of Congress and the president came together to support strong counterterrorism measures that have kept our homeland safe ever since. With the passage of this bill, hopefully we can move back to the time when our nation stood united in common cause to stop terrorism.

"This bill closes the gaps in our ability to collect intelligence on <u>foreign</u> targets in <u>foreign</u> countries to detect and prevent potential terrorist attacks. Strengthening America's terrorist surveillance capability is something we as a nation should all be able to support."